

October 10, 2008

Hon. Michael J. Knapp, Council President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Knapp:

Re: Ambulance Fees

I am writing in support of Ambulance Fees.

When I worked in OMB, we proposed fees for ambulance service some twenty-five years ago. It is hard to believe that it has been that long ago. It is hard to believe that the county has not collected fees for this service when it collects fees for many program services.

Much is said about insurance rates going up if this fee is past. My daughter is self-employed and has an individual health insurance policy. Her policy includes payment for ambulance services. I think is true for most insurance policies.

The Council chose to cut the retiree high-option Prescription Drug Plan this past year in order to save \$700,000. It seems extremely unfair to cut this program, and other programs, and not pursue every fee possible.

The safe guards are built into the fee proposal so that people without insurance will not be financially burdened. Information can be provided to people that outlines the program and informs them of how the fee is collected.

The Ambulance Fee is an existing revenue stream. All the Council has to do is tap into it.

Cordially,

Suzanne Hudson